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LAUSD adult education teachers, students protest proposed cuts

April 27, 2012 | By [Adolfo Guzman-Lopez](#) with [Tami Abdollah](#)

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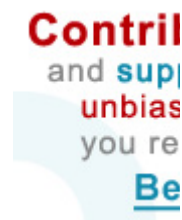


Adolfo Guzman-Lopez/KPCC

Several hundred people protested outside L.A. Unified headquarters earlier this year as the school board prepared to cut funding to preschool and adult education. The protests continue, made all the more tense by tens of thousands of pink slips the state has sent to teachers.

Teachers and students in LAUSD's Adult Education Division rallied in Van Nuys on Friday in an attempt to pressure the district to not lay off a [large portion of its adult education teachers](#).

To help balance a severe budget deficit, L.A. Unified sent [preliminary layoff notices](#) to about two-thirds of adult education teachers in the district.



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The planned layoffs stand to affect mostly the lower class and immigrants, who learn English using adult education classes.

"We still don't see a lot of movement from the school board or superintendent," said teacher Matthew Kogan. "In fact, we're getting the feeling they're digging in their heels and trying to say it's a done deal."

An LAUSD spokesman said the district is [in negotiations](#) with the teachers' union to rescind some layoff notices to adult education teachers. There are a couple more steps in the budget process, but layoff notices should become final in just over a month.

Friday's rally is just [one of several](#) that have been roaring since February in opposition to the possible cuts.

The district has said the cuts to adult education are necessary because of deep cuts to state funding and a \$390 million budget shortfall.

L.A. Unified Superintendent John Deasy outlined several budget scenarios in his March presentation one of which included restoring portions of adult education depending on concessions from United Teachers Los Angeles.

One of those concessions was granted this week. An [arbitrator ruled](#) that the [district can impose up to five furlough days](#) on teachers.

[District officials said in March](#) that winning the arbitration would free up about \$60 million that would allow for a partial recovery of adult education courses and schools to serve roughly 100,000 people.

An additional 45,000 (of the current 53,000) people seeking to recover high school credit or gain some basic job training would also be served.

Tami Abdollah can be reached via [email](#) and on [Twitter](#) (@latams).

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George Buzzetti

According to the California Dept. of Education (CDE) website the district has about \$2.2 billion in reserves and the income/student in 2010-11 was \$11,203. This is about \$2,400/student more than the average Unified School District and more than \$280/student more than the average in the



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U.S. according to the federal DOE. In 2010-11 107,700 students did not come to school everyday. This cost the district over \$1 billion in lost income. If you add the previous years it is over \$4 billion in lost income just due to LAUSD not caring if students do not come to school. This is why there is a recall on Board President Monica Garcia. We are also going to take Roosevelt High School away from Villaraigosa and PLAS. The dropout has gone from 45-66%. Test scores have dropped and from my latest analysis of the F grades, I have the data, there are 2 F's for every student at Roosevelt. I am willing to bet that this is the same across the district and that is why they want to make an F a D and lowering the credits for graduation from 230-170. Is this enough about what is really going on there?

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Why doesn't KPCC confront Deasy with the facts? He's still hiring administration , which is never cut despite being overpaid and nonessential more often than not. How will fewer school days, no art, no music, no preschool, no academic rigor improve schools? You realize KPCC is complicit with this man's crimes against the community and largely to blame for the devastating impact this despicable brand of philanthropy has had on teachers and students' lives. Mr. Deasy is as mean as a rattlesnake You know he.'s a brutal bully, yet you never give up the full story. It may cost you a job, ir make your life a little uncomfortable , but a journalists that's what you signed on for , remember? Your work is born out of duty to the truth. Cowards like yourselves no longer have any place in education or journalism that serves the people. You serve the oligarchs and sadly, you do yourselves and the rest of us a grave disservice.

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